

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE POSS DUPE

PAGE 01 OUAGAD 01786 301954Z

43

ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ADP-00 PC-15 USIA-15 IO-13 DODE-00

AGR-20 ACDA-19 INT-08 COME-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

RSC-01 RSR-01 /197 W

----- 099631

R 280730Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6935

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY FORT LAMY

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE OUAGADOUGOU 1786

AFDROUGHT

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: DROUGHT EMERGENCY SITUATION

1. FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY OF REPORT BY FERMINO SPENCER, DIRECTOR OF AID/AFR/CWR, ON HIS VISIT TO OUAGADOUGOU. FULL REPORT BEING FORWARDED BY AIRGRAM.

2. DESPITE CONTINUING EFFECTS OF LAST YEAR'S DROUGHT, OUAGADOUGOU LOOKS GOOD AT FIRST GLANCE BECAUSE RAINS HAVE COME AND CITY VEGETATION IS GREEN. APPEARANCE IS DECEPTIVE, HOWEVER. GRAIN IS NOW AVAILABLE IN MARKET, BUT BEING SOLD AT VERY HIGH PRICES, TWO OR THREE TIMES NORMAL. SOME TIME AGO THE SITUATION HAD BEEN SO DESPERATE THAT GOUV REQUESTED THAT GRAIN BE SENT BACK TO CAPITAL FROM OUTLYING AREAS TO ALLEVIATE SITUATION. MORE RECENTLY, THERE WERE RUMORS THAT SOME OFFICERS CONSIDERING COUP. NOTHING CAME OF IT, BUT ONE CABI-

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 OUAGAD 01786 301954Z

NET MEMBER WAS QUOTED AS SAYING GOVERNMENT MIGHT HAVE TOPPLED IF GRAIN SUPPLY IN OUAGA HAD NOT IMPROVED PROMPTLY.

3. PERMANENT INTERSTATE DROUGHT COMMITTEE (PIC) CONTINUES FUNCTION, BUT MAINLY IN PERSONS OF MENSAH AND KONATE. PIC HAS REQUEST OF ONE US TECHNICIAN AND EXPECTS REQUEST SHORT-TERM CONTRACT SERVICES OF OTHER AMERICAN TECHNICIANS. SPENCER MORE HOPEFUL ABOUT PIC THAN PREVIOUSLY, AND PIC'S PROSPECTS WILL BECOME CLEARER DURING SEPTEMBER MEETINGS.

4. SPENCER COMMENDS EMBASSY'S LEADERSHIP IN INNOVATIVE AIRDROP US SORGHUM ON INACCESSIBLE PLACES. OPERATION HAS INVOLVED PARTICIPATION BELGIAN, FRENCH, AND GERMAN AIRFORCES AND VOLTAN AND SWISS RED CROSS. UNFORTUNATELY AIRDROP SUFFERED FIRST CASUALTIES AUG. 24 WHEN TWO NOMADS AT MARKOYE RUSHED TO PICK UP GRAIN BEFORE FRENCH AIRFORCE NORD ATLAS COMPLETED ITS AIRDROP. VOLTAN NATIONAL DROUGHT RELIEF SUBCOMMITTEE HAD ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS ASSURED DONOR COMMUNITY THAT TARGETING OF AIRDROPS BASED ON PRESENCE LOCAL OFFICIALS WHO WOULD ASSURE SAFE DROP CONDITIONS, AND IT HAS BEEN SUB-COMMITTEE'S RESPONSIBILITY TO INFORM LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN ADVANCE OF EACH DROP. GOUV HAS NOT MENTIONED INCIDENT TO US, BUT THEY HAVE RAISED WITH FRENCH. IT HAS NEVER BEEN REPORTED PUBLICLY.

5. ON FLIGHT UP-COUNTRY, SPENCER NOTED THAT SEASONALLY VERDANT LANDSCAPE AROUND OUAGADOUGOU DECLINES RAPIDLY AS ONE MOVES NORTH TO PURPLISH-BROWN LANDSCAPE WITH GREEN SPOTS AND VERY FEW CATTLE VISIBLE. MANY ROADS EVIDENTLY IMPASSIBLE BECAUSE OF RAINS, AND OVERFLEW ONE BRIDGE WHICH OUT. STOPPED AT BOGANDE, TYPICAL TOWN WHICH COMPLETELY CUT OFF. VIRTUALLY NO GRAIN AVAILABLE THERE AND IN CONTRAST TO NORMAL AFRICAN VILLAGES, NO WOMEN SEEN POUNDING GRAIN WITH TRADITIONAL MORTAR AND PESTLE. ONLY GRAIN SUPPLY COMES VIA AIRDROP, FOR WHICH PEOPLE VERY GRATEFUL. ANOTHER STOP MADE AT GOROM-GOROM, SIZEABLE TOWN WHICH CUT OFF BY RAINS AND ALSO RECEIVING AIRDROPS. VISITED DISTRIBUTION SITE THERE WHERE OVER 200 WOMEN AND CHILDREN SURROUNDING WAREHOUSE.

6. SPENCER ALSO OVERFLEW MARKOYE RANCH, PREVIOUS USAID PROJECT WHICH HAS BEEN TURNED OVER TO GOUV. RANCH APPEARED PROSPEROUS DESPITE LOCATION AT NORTHERNMOST TOWN IN UPPER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 OUAGAD 01786 301954Z

VOLTA. RANCH HAD GREEN GRASS AND CATTLE WHICH LOOKED GOOD EVEN FROM AIR. CONTROLLED GRAZING AND MODERN RANCHING TECHNIQUES CLEARLY MAKE THE DIFFERENCE, FOR RANGE INSIDE RANCH PERIMETER FENCE THREE TIMES AS LUSH AS GRASSLAND OUTSIDE. WIDESPREAD APPLICATION BASIC MODERN RANCHING TECHNIQUES COULD HAVE BIG IMPACT ON THIS PART OF WORLD, AND MIDDLE AND LONG-TERM PLANNERS SHOULD LOOK CAREFULLY AT MARKOYE RANCH.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS: (A) EMBASSIES SHOULD USE DROUGHT RELIEF FUNDS TO RENT AIRCRAFT FOR ON-SITE INSPECTION OF DROUGHT

CONDITIONS AS NEEDED; EMBASSY/OUAGADOUGOU HAS INVITED VOLTAN OFFICIALS ON SUCH SURVEYS. (B) ROAD AND BRIDGE WORK IS NEEDED TO OPEN SURFACE TRANSPORT TO WORST DROUGHT-STRICKEN AREAS. AS FIRST STEP, SURVEY SHOULD BE MADE OF ROAD REPAIR/IMPROVEMENT ACTIVITIES THAT COULD READILY BE UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO NEXT RAINY SEASON. (C) SOME WAY NEEDS TO BE FOUND TO PRE-POSITION STOCKS IN ISOLATED AREAS, AND TRADITIONAL STORAGE SYSTEMS NEED TO BE FURTHER STUDIED TO DETERMINE WHETHER RATES OF LOSS ARE HIGH OR LOW FOR VARIOUS TYPES. (D) WATER STORAGE CAPACITY NEEDS TO BE EXPANDED AND IMPROVED, STARTING WITH INCREASED CONSTRUCTION OF EARTHEN DAMS; COST-LIER DAMS CALL FOR CAREFUL STUDY IN CONTEXT LONG-RANGE INTEGRATED PLANNING. (E) DRILLING "DEEP" WELLS MAY BENEFIT SOME AREAS. (NOTE: "DDDP" WELL IN UPPER VOLTA MEANS AN ORDINARY DRILLED WELL IN STATESIDE TERMS.) SUCH WELLS ARE RARE IN UPPER VOLTA BECAUSE OF UNCERTANTY WHETHER FLOW WILL JUSTIFY COST. SPENCER MET DR. JOSEPH BIRMAN, WHO HEADS UNIQUE CONSULTING FIRM WHICH HAS HAD SUCCESS FINDING GROUND WATER IN MEXICO AND SOUTHWESTERN US USING INNOVATIVE GEOTHERMAL ANALYSIS. THIS APPROACH SHOULD BE EXPLORED, AND BIRMAN IS PREPARING PROPOSAL FOR UPPER VOLTA.

BULLEN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DISASTER RELIEF, AIR TRANSPORTATION, DISASTER REPORTS, DROUGHTS, GRAINS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973OUAGAD01786
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: OUAGADOUGOU
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730811/aaaaahpa.tel
Line Count: 137
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AID
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08-Jan-2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <25-Jan-2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DROUGHT EMERGENCY SITUATION
TAGS: SWEL, UV, XY
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005